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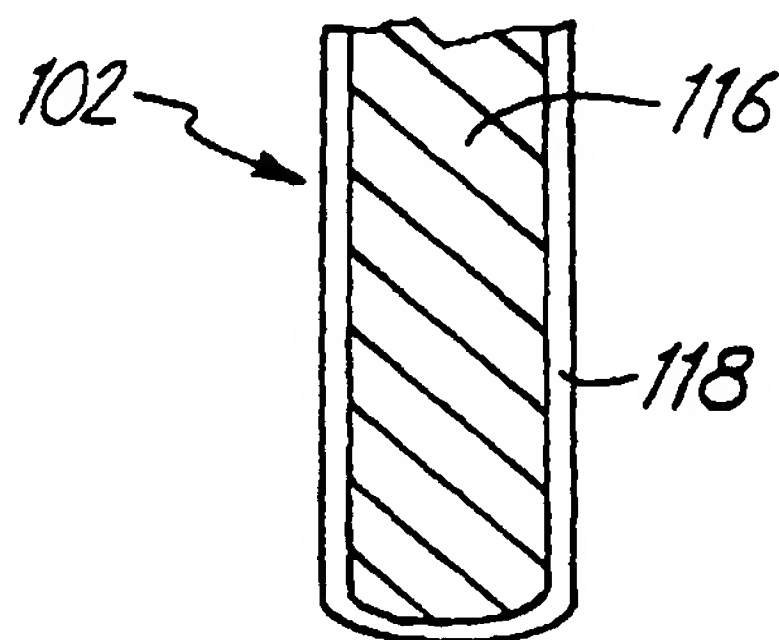
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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guid-
ance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the begin-
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(54) Title: **MEDICAL ARTICLE WITH A DIAMOND-LIKE CARBON COATING**

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(57) Abstract: Implantable vascular devices and implantable cardiovascu-
lar devices suitable for contacting a patient's blood or bodily fluids include
a polymer substrate that is at least partly coated with a diamond-like carbon
coating. The diamond-like carbon coated polymer substrate can be flexible or
rigid. Preferred medical devices include heart valve prostheses with leaflets
or orifice rings formed from diamond-like carbon coated polymer materials.
Preferred approaches for the deposition of the diamond-like carbon coating
are performed at low pressures and include ion beam assisted deposition.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61L33/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61L A61F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, EPO-Internal, PAJ, BIOSIS, INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 198450 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A96, AN 1984-309060 XP002181635 & JP 59 192366 A (SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND CO), 31 October 1984 (1984-10-31) abstract</p> <p>---</p>	1-35
X	<p>DATABASE WPI Section Ch, Week 198535 Derwent Publications Ltd., London, GB; Class A96, AN 1985-213086 XP002181636 & JP 60 135062 A (SUMITOMO ELECTRIC IND CO), 18 July 1985 (1985-07-18) abstract</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/--</p>	1-16, 31-35



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
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- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
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- *8* document member of the same patent family

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	GB 2 287 473 A (FRANKS DR JOSEPH) 20 September 1995 (1995-09-20) page 2, paragraph 5 claims 1-6,19-25 ----	1-35
X	US 5 945 153 A (DEARNALEY GEOFFREY) 31 August 1999 (1999-08-31) column 2, paragraph 2 - paragraph 3 column 4, last paragraph -column 5, paragraph 1 ----	1-35
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X	EP 0 876 821 A (HOWMEDICA) 11 November 1998 (1998-11-11) claims page 2, line 49 - line 53 page 3, line 23 - line 46 -----	1-35

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Two group of claims 29-31 are present in the present set of claims. It is not clear which of the two groups needs to be searched. Consequently, both group of claims 29-31 have been searched. However, for the purpose of issuing the International Search Report, the group of claims 29-31 relating to a Heart valve has been identified as claims 32-34. Identically, original claim 32 has been identified as claim 35.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

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